

The Chairman, Leonard Bertin, called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm Wednesday, October 3, 2001.

Present:	Leonard Bertin, member	Nancy Sura, member
	Angela J Done, member	Dick Kuschinsky, member
	Dorie House, member	Kul B Gauri, member
	John Rodgers, member	Sharon Lu, student rep
	Jerry Ong, student rep	Mitch Grusnick, staff
		Mary McGinnis, staff

Absent:	Phillip D'Anna, member	Sharon Connelly, member
	Mary Ann Butler, alt member	Cynthia Buchanan, member
	Nancy Johnson, member	

ITEM B – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2001.

Motion by Bertin to approve Minutes with corrections. Supported by Done.

ITEM C – VISITORS, DELEGATIONS AND GENERAL PUBLIC

Roger McCarville, Host and Executive Producer of Channel 56 program “Disabilities Today” and his film crew

John Szerlag, Troy City Manager

Kraig Schmottlach, Community Center Facilities Manager

Cindy Stewart, Community Affairs Director

ITEM D – NEW BUSINESS

Roger McCarville from “Disabilities Today” interviewed Bertin, Sura, Szerlag and Stewart before the meeting, and random footage camera shot of the Committee seated around the table. McCarville thanked the Committee for the invitation, and stated that if any other Cities contacted him about this Committee or starting a Committee for Persons with Disabilities he would ask them to contact the City of Troy for information per Mr. Szerlag’s invitation. He stated he thought the program would be on Channel 56 in two weeks, but would contact the Committee when he found out the exact date.

Bertin will send an appreciation letter to Roger McCarville for featuring this Committee on his program. (Attached)

Kraig Schmottlach, Community Center Facilities Manager, stated that he has been with the City for approximately three (3) months. He came from Muncie, Indiana, went to Ball State where he had experience in sports such as goal ball with both persons with disabilities and the able bodied. He personally participates in a tri-athlon completion in this area.

Schmottlack stated that approximately 80% of his time currently is used buying new equipment for the new Community Center facility. He mentioned that equipment will be purchased for use by both able bodied and persons with disabilities.

Sura asked if the kitchen equipment would be purchased with persons with disabilities in mind? For example stoves and counters accessible to people in wheelchairs, and cooking classes for developmentally challenged adults. Schmottlack stated that Emerald has the large equipment in the kitchen for preparing the food for Meals on Wheels, and that he would be glad to meet with Sura to find out what considerations the adaptive population and seniors might need to be able to use the kitchen facilities.

Schmottlack is also responsible for the day-to-day operations of the heating and cooling of the building. He will also be responsible for new policies and procedures for establishing a new fee schedule for programs offered. The Community Center will try to break even on services, as of now all revenues are from fees, rentals of meeting rooms, and banquet rooms.

He plans to hire a full time fitness position; included in the responsibilities would be personal training, and a part time person for the fitness room to help people use the fitness equipment. He also plans to offer a 4-hour workshop with sensitivity training to include senior citizens, racial issues and persons with disabilities. Bertin asked if a Certified Recreational Therapist would be considered. Mr. Schmottlack agreed that CRT skills would be advantageous to the Community Center.

House asked how many scooters are in the budget for the new Community Center. Szerlag ask Schmottlach to ask Carol Anderson to put at least one in the budget.

Schmottlach stated that Phase I of the Community Center should be ready for opening in March 2002. Phase I will include the Aquatic Center, Gym, and the senior citizen portion of building. The facilities that will not be operational will be banquet facilities, meeting rooms, music rooms, board and card game room, pre-school rooms, teen rooms, and the administrative offices. These will be a part of Phase II, which is targeted to open in January 2003.

Schmottlach said that his door is always open to Troy Citizens, and if he can do anything for people with disabilities he would be glad to talk to them.

Kul Gauri attended at meeting of the Oakland and Macomb Center for Independent Living at Athens High School. In attendance at this meeting were Susan Marsh, from OMCIL, an Athens teacher, and 5 students. All of the students had a learning disability. They worked on skills of self-reliance and how to build self-respect. Gauri reported that it was a good meeting.

Bertin asked the members of this Committee to become more visible and approachable in the community. He asked that someone attend the wheelchair basketball games at

Boulan middle school. He also asked if the student representatives Ong and Hu could write articles for their school newspapers about disability issues.

A copy of the City's Voluntary ADA Compliance Statement from 1991 was passed out to each member of the Committee for each to review before the next meeting. The Committee would like to see if something could be set up at the Nature Center to comply.

Sura suggested that this Committee nominate Brian DeFrancesco for the Community Award sponsored by Leadership Troy. DeFrancesco has held a dance at the Community Center every Friday night for many years and has never received recognition for all of his time. Kuschinsky made a motion for the nomination and Sura seconded. All voted in favor.

ITEM E – REGULAR BUSINESS

Sharon Lu is a new student representative member of this Committee. Lu goes to Troy High and volunteers at Beaumont Hospital and a campaign to prevent teen pregnancy. She wants to study medicine at College.

ITEM F – OLD BUSINESS

Nancy Kuha sent a City of Troy Memo to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities with the purpose of answering questions that were asked of her when she was a guest at the meeting in September that she did not know the answer. Question 1 – was asked, can we use a "Voucher" system to pay the home chore participants up front so that they can hire the contractor of their choice? Kuha stated that the County would not fund a program where a competitive bid process is not used to hire a contractor.

Sura made a motion that we accept the report as written and table the issue of the voucher system for the Home Chore Program for one (1) year and give Kuha a chance to work on the system. Kuschinsky seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

House asked Grusnick if he had looked at the lighting at the front of the library that had been discussed at the last meeting. Grusnick responded that he had not been able to see it at night. House, Done and Grusnick agreed to go to the library after the meeting; their findings will be discussed at next meeting.

House also asked if anything could be done about the line of cars at library entrance of people dropping off and picking up children and young adults. It makes it difficult to access for disabled parking. Grusnick will ask John Abraham if anything can be done to prevent this problem at the library and report next month.

Ong and Lu were asked to bring an outline to the next meeting of what the Committee could do for a recognition day. This could be accomplished at Troy Daze or some other appropriate day in the year.

ITEM G – INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM H - ADJOURN

Motion was made to adjourn by Kuschinsky and seconded by Sura. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

MG:mm